



### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **scud**

representative species

Kingdom:           Animalia  
Division/Phylum:   Arthropoda  
Class:             Malacostraca  
Order:             Amphipoda

### **Features**

Scuds are small crustaceans, growing to only one-fifth to four-fifths inch. In appearance they are somewhat like shrimp. There are seven pairs of legs on the thorax, the first two pairs with grasping claws. The head contains the eyes and two pairs of antennae. The body is flattened side-to-side.

### **Natural History**

Scuds live along the bottom in the shallows of many types of water bodies including springs, streams, lakes, and ponds. These amphipods tend to be associated with cave habitats. They are omnivores and detritivores. Scuds are an important food source for many species of fish. They swim on their side along the bottom accounting for their common name "sideswimmer."

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs